

BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

VOLUME XIV.

GREAT BEND, KANSAS, THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1897.

NUMBER 7.

USURPATION OF POWER.

A Writer in the Washington, D. C., Silver Knight Sounds A Note of Warning.



ONE MAN Power, a power as dangerous as any which ever threatened our civil government, the dangerous power of "absolutism" now threatens the United States, and every patriotic heart should be aroused to an understanding of the indignities now visited upon the rightful representatives of the people.

Like the unconscious victim of a fatal malady, the congress of the United States is exhibiting its strength in the arrogant defiance of any and everything that obstructs the will of its master, not sensible of the fact that its own powers and its independence are being destroyed by the denial to the people of their right to be represented in the houses.

The distribution of the law-making power equally among the states in the senate, without reference to population and equally among the people in the apportionment of representatives in the house, is the safest provision for the security of the right of self government that the people have secured to them in the constitution. One of these houses represents the people in a sovereign capacity, acting through their state governments, and the other represents them in their popular sovereignty. In either form of representation every member in either house is the equal of every other member and no man can usurp any authority or have any power delegated to him to become the absolute master of his colleagues, or any of them.

No rule can be constitutionally adopted in either of the houses that would empower the presiding officer or any committee to deny to any member the privilege of voting, or being heard upon any measure, or of offering to amend the same. A member may be restricted as to the length of debate, or as to his privilege of offering amendments, by a vote of the house, but his right to be heard in some form cannot be denied to him by any authority that can be lodged in the hands of a presiding officer, to be exercised in a discretionary way. When a presiding officer of either house refuses to permit a member to exercise the privilege of presenting a matter to the body for any reason that is merely arbitrary or personal to himself, the presiding officer, he thereby unjustly denies the right of representation to the constituency of such member. No denial of a right can be more dangerous to the country than this, and no motive can be more worthy of reprobation than such a concealed purpose of doing wrong under color of rightful authority.

This frequent crime is dangerous enough to the country, but it is insignificant as compared with the prohibition upon all legislation which results when one man, or a dominate party has the power and uses it, to deprive either house of its proper and regular organization.

It subverts constitutional government by denying representation in the houses in any rational view of that great right. Rules adopted by either house for government are final and conclusive acts that rests upon an express and exclusive grant of power in the constitution. When adopted, and while they remain unchanged, they are constitutional obligations, and are clearly included in the oath to support the constitution.

Those rules following the parliamentary law that is universally accepted by legislative bodies, require the appointment of committees whose numbers are fixed and whose duties are defined, each committee having charge of certain subjects of legislation. Those subjects include every interest of the people that the house regards as being important. When the power to appoint committees is given to the presiding officer or to a committee of the house the mandate of the constitution is direct and imperative that such power shall be fully exercised, and within a reasonable time. Otherwise the rights of the persons and localities or interests that are placed by the rules in charge of certain committees, have no chance of consideration, and cannot be regularly or lawfully presented to that house for action.

When there is no committee of the

District of Columbia, or of the territories or of Indian affairs, for example, all representation of those great interests ceases as they are not permitted to have representatives who can vote on the floor of either house.

In a less distinct and conspicuous way this is also true of every committee which is ordained by the rules of either house. The foreign relations, the war, navy, and postoffice departments, and all other branches of the service and of legislative action, are left without the guardianship of standing or select committees because a committee or a presiding officer of a house refuses to obey the mandates of the constitution, expressed in rules adopted by the senate or house of representatives, as the case may be.

The refusal of the senate for more than thirty days, for no other reason than party jealousy and political enterprise, to place the newly-elected senators on the existing committees, is nothing less than to deny to the states they represent their equal voice in the senate.

And the refusal of the speaker of the house of representatives to appoint any committees except such as have jurisdiction of ways and means, rules and appropriations, with the object and purpose of confining legislation to certain bills of appropriation and to the subject of tariff taxation, deprive all persons and all parts of the country interested in other matters of their right of representation as effectually as if the members of the house chosen by them were expelled from the body.

This palpable breach of constitutional duty, resulting in the most reckless usurpation of the "one man power" is attempted to be excused on the ground that the present extra session of congress is convened for a special purpose and to meet a special emergency in the finances of the government. If such an emergency exists—as it cannot exist with an available fund in the treasury of \$122,405,606 on April 1st, above all actual demand liabilities—to confine legislation to the single object of meeting such emergency by the enactment of an iron-clad bill for providing legislative bounties for favored classes under the false pretense of "protection" for the whole body of the people against foreign competition, is only an aggravation of the absolutism which inspires this bold and defiant usurpation of the "one man power."

Our constitution contains no hint or toleration of the idea that the president by convening congress in open session to meet any emergency of government can limit its power or restrict its duty to certain specific subjects of legislation. He may, on proper occasions, convene either house in secret executive session, but the proclamation under which the present extra session is called is for an open session of congress in which it must be left at liberty to exercise all its constitutional functions and powers; else it is no congress. Congress has not this liberty because the speaker of the house of representatives and the "steering committee" of the republican party in the senate refuse to organize those bodies by the appointment of committees or by filling vacancies. In the house all the committees, except the committee on rules, are either idle or they are without a membership.

Those that are organized are without any business to attend to, and the other members of the house meet once in three days to enact the farce of a further adjournment for three days.

It seems impossible to say that this disorganization of congress is not the fault of the membership of the house, yet in one sense that is true. In the humiliating sense that the speaker of the house is an autocrat, whose party followers do not dare to resist his authority, this dangerous submission to tyranny now governs the house and the country. Congress has now but one line of action, and that is prescribed and defined by the house, which is under the absolute control of the speaker, so that nothing can be done for the country that he does not assent to. When the behests of party organization and the rewards of party allegiance demand the submission of the representatives of the states and the people to the unquestioned will of a single man, it seems idle to speak of liberty as being safe under the shelter of a written constitution. It is far safer in an absolute and imperial government, where the crown holds a paternal relation, alike to all its subjects, and deals with all in paternal impartiality. That is slavery, it is true, but it is not the de-

struction of a minority for the aggrandizement of a majority.

The party that now is responsible for this unheard of condition is establishing a fearful precedent of disruption in the very vitals of the republic, that threatens its dishonor, if not its ruin, on the first occasion when there is excuse for revolt on the part of the masses against the classes. An idle house of congress, waiting upon the will of a single master to do the work that he shall assign to them, and prohibit from doing anything else, loitering in the halls and corridors of congress like soldiers in a camp or the retainers of a royal court, is a spectacle that this republic was not designed to tolerate; a reproach upon a self-governing people that no exigency can excuse.

When such a condition of servitude is imposed upon hundreds of congressmen, the representatives of 40,000,000 of people, for no other purpose than to coerce the passage of a single measure, through which rewards for partisan services are to be divided among the supporters of a political organization, "the one man power" that controls such a congress is more absolute and autocratic than the royal prerogative of any king that rules in Christendom.

We Claim the Authorship.

A few weeks ago the Star copied in the "Kansas Notes" a bit of poetry beginning, "Into the cow lot, bright and gay, the milk maid hustles from day to day," etc., and credited it to the "Frederonia Citizen." The Topeka Mail made a great roar, declaring that the Citizen had cribbed it from the Great Bend Democrat which had used it introducing an article on the creamery. The Mail went on at a great rate, and incidentally complimented the Great Bend editor upon the excellence of the verse. But the Great Bend editor said not a word; he just sawed wood. Now comes the Burlington Republican with a statement that explains the Great Bend poet's silence. It says: "We are not absolutely sure, and do not wish to accuse any one falsely, but probably the reason the Great Bend editor is not making any roar is that he cribbed it himself. If we are not greatly mistaken, Walt Mason wrote that bit of poetry and started it on the rounds six or eight years ago, when he was doing 'Topics of the Times' on the Nebraska State Journal, and we believe we can prove it by our files. It is not a pleasant thing to say, but it is a fact, that some, yes many, of the newspaper brethren in Kansas are very careless not to say dishonest, about appropriating the products of other minds. We have a little list of names of habitual and persistent offenders in that particular, and sometimes long for the circulation of a great state paper so we could hold them up to the scorn of just editors who give credit to all productions not their own."—Kansas City Star.

The editor of the DEMOCRAT does not lay claim to being a poetical genius; and we have had so many of our little squibs "cribbed" by the would-be smart fellows of the eastern part of the state that we have become hardened to the injustice. We desire, however, to say to the editor of the Burlington Republican the bit of poetical sentiment above referred to never appeared in print in any form until we wrote it—in a spirit of gratification over the success of the creamery business in Barton county—and printed it in the DEMOCRAT on February 25th, 1897; and we will make him, or anyone else, a present of a fine Jersey cow if they will show anything that it was printed in prior to that date. And further, if "we are not greatly mistaken" when the Burlington Republican prints his "little list" (and it had not ought to be so little either) it will contain the names of more of the eastern Kansas editors than those of the short grass country.

Deal With Home Men.

It is a good plan in anything you want to buy, but especially so when buying nursery stock. I know my trees are all good, and you know I am here to back up my claims for them. When in need of any kind of nursery stock—Apple, Pear, Cherry, Plum, Apricot, any kind of fruit trees or shrubs, call and see my stock. This is the kind of a season to put out trees and shrubbery; they will be sure to get a good start. Call and see my stock. Great Bend Nurseries.

C. Q. NEWCOMB, Prop.

A little over two years ago the Great Bend Creamery started up at this point having the first few days only a half dozen or so patrons. Soon after starting it met with the misfortune of being burned down, and had to be rebuilt and a new start virtually made. Today it has a list of eighty-three patrons, and takes in an average of 10,000 pounds of milk a day at this point. It will pay you town people to go down some morning and see them handle milk and cream.

THE question of the hour is: Which will go the highest and do the most damage, the Mississippi river or the Dingley tariff bill?

In Boston two failures, Pittsburg one, in Chicago one, aggregating over \$1,400,000 for the four, was the welcome which "returning prosperity" received on May 1st.

AT LAST war is declared between Greece and Turkey. The sympathy and good wishes of every Christian people are with Greece, and the bloody Turk has not a friend in any country but his own.

THE Topeka Journal says that the Topeka G. A. R. men admit Topeka failed to get the 1897 G. A. R. reunion because the reunion last year was turned into a republican meeting. Serves Topeka right.

CONGRESSMAN Jerry Simpson has taken several falls out of Speaker Tom Reed during the past week or two, and even the rock-ribbed republican Wichita Eagle admits that Jerry is right in his position, and the Czar of the house wrong.

THE fee and salary bill passed last winter by the anti-republican legislature will make a saving to Kansas of \$54,000 a year, on salaries of state officers alone. Is there a republican paper in the county which will acknowledge this fact?

WILL WHITE made a great three base hit with the gold-standard republicans in the east by his "What's the matter with Kansas" article. Will, please tell us "what's the matter" with his town—Emporia—which went free silver at the recent spring election.

KANSAS is a drouthy state has been said exactly 2,788,333,465,000, 000,000 times by her enemies, but nevertheless she continues to do business at the same old stand, and if indications are not misleading she will swell up with an overproduction of cereals again this year to feed the "hungry hithens of the bloated east," who have been so loud in defaming our state's fair name.—Hazelton Express.

THE Pittsburg Tribune, daily and weekly, is no longer a republican paper, but now espouses the cause of free silver and other demands of the people. It's editor, D. C. Flint, has been a republican newspaper man for years, at Girard and Pittsburg. He says he "changed" his mind in politics some time ago. Can the single gold standard and high tariff press point us to any silver papers now deserting the cause?

The legislature this winter has developed two facts: First, that it is not safe to send some Populists to see legislature; second, that it is never safe to send any Republicans.—Hawthorne Democrat.

ALL OF which is eminently correct. The natural sequence should follow, that the best way for Kansas to do hereafter is to send neither populists nor republicans; but elect democrats, who will neither corrupt nor be corrupted.

"A PECULIAR but sensible courtship is in progress in Florence," says the Bulletin: "The mother believes that a girl should be admired just as she is, instead of as she appears when arrayed in all the imaginable finery and artificial ornaments. The young man in this case is allowed to call only in the evening just after supper. Instead of being shown into the parlor, he is ushered into the kitchen, where he is permitted to watch his girl, dressed in working harness, do the supper dishes."

DANIEL WEBSTER once said: "There is something on earth greater than arbitrary, despotic power. The whirlwind has its power, the lightning has its power; but there is something among men more capable of shaking despotic power than the lightning, the whirlwind or the earthquake—it is the aroused and excited indignation of a great and intelligent people." This sentiment is as true as gospel, and before another year rolls round the tariff tinkers, the gold-standard jugglers and the great trust and combine schemers will be brought to a

realization of its truthfulness. Every move on the busy checker-board of public affairs today points to the fact that our people ARE aroused as they never have been before, not even when they fought for freedom from the hated British yoke of old.

WE HAVE it from fin de seicle authority that fashionable hugging does not admit of a squeeze below the shoulders. It would seem to us that this would be as unsatisfactory as eating soup with a knitting needle. The good old-fashioned nag of forty years ago took in more territory and was a very satisfactory pastime, but if the youngsters of today have improved on the old way, we have no right to kick, but what little business we have in that line will be conducted after the old style.—Cherokee Sentinel.

GOVERNOR FINGREE on the spring elections: "There has been a reaction in politics all over the country. Iowa and Ohio, and other states and cities that gave enormous republican majorities last fall have elected officers this spring. I predicted after the fall election that the republican party would never win another victory for the single gold standard, and I am today firmer than ever in my belief. There is a reaction in favor of bimetalism which all parties will be compelled to recognize."

WILL the Larned Optic please publish this, from Charley Scott of the Iola Register, for the benefit of Billy Edwards:

"A few Kansas fellows have been elected to office in Kansas, and having sucked the lemon dry, are now trying to interest our people in the baldheaded Port Arthur boom at the expense of Kansas. There are fifty Kansas towns offering better inducements for the investment of capital and energy. The fellows who are booming Port Arthur should either go there or take a large rectangular tumble to themselves."

THE title of the McKinley bill was worded: "To reduce the revenue and equalize duties on imports, and for other purposes." The title of the Dingley bill now pending is, "To provide revenue for the government and to encourage the industries of the United States." No matter what the people want, tariff will bring it. If we have too much revenue, give us more tariff, if we have not enough revenue give us more tariff. Such is the breath of republicanism which blows hot and cold as required. It is an infamous swindle from beginning to end; a fraud to all but dupes.—Norton Champion.

EUGENE STOTTS, in his Santa Fe Trail, expresses the normal condition of most of the Kansas editorial fraternity, and prescribes the medicine that would bring relief, in the following paragraph:

"We notice with great sorrow that a number of our subscribers are in arrears with their subscription. Of course we don't need money. A newspaper is supposed to run on wind, in fact it will. However we are a little short on several of the necessities of life, and long in confidence, besides we did not promise to take confidence on subscription. It was the other fellows. Our cry has been and shall be for a fifty-three cent dollar or the equivalent, in anything from coyote hides to fat fowls, or, in fact, just any old thing."

In KANSAS there are 81,318 square miles of land. There are 62,042,520 acres in Kansas, and if the entire population of the United States were equally distributed over them the people would hardly be in speaking distance of each other. Kansas could furnish every man, woman and child in the United States with five-sixths of an acre for a garden spot. Allowing two square feet for each inhabitant, the entire population of the state might be assembled on sixty-nine acres of ground. The entire population of Kansas could have stood in one of the World's fair buildings. Butler, the largest county in Kansas, has more square miles in it than the entire state of Rhode Island.—Holton Signal.

How about it? Are we, or are we not, to have a 4th of July celebration at Great Bend this year? Ellinwood, Hoinington, Cladin and Pawnee Rock all would like to join us in a grand "time." Shall we prepare them entertainment?

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